

FOREST VILLA NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES - April 3, 2008



On April 3, 2008 the City of Auburn Mayor and City staff met with neighbors of the Forest Villa area at Chinook Elementary School, 3502 Auburn Way South, regarding speeding, traffic safety concerns and fireworks.

Staff in Attendance: Mayor Pete Lewis, Chief Kelly, Mark Caillier, Hans Krenz, Duanna Richards, Kirsten Reynolds, Michael Hursh, Leslie Lehnhoff, Leah Dunsdon, Tiffin Goodman, Amber Mund, Bob Wuotila, Don Stephens and Jeff Dixon

Community Members in Attendance: Regina Amador, Robin McChincy, Patricia Schmauden & Daryl Dougherty, Dawn & Dale Clyde, Sonna & Don Alexander, Kevin Peters, Rachel Adams, Garry & Karol Nevers, Robert Cottnell, Merlin Palmer, Melinda Atchley, Steve Butterfield, Kathy Smith, Lenny Hollamun, Ruth Reinking, Shana Friend, Mike & Lori Sulser, Gerry & Lynne Busch, Ralph Marbet, Judy Johnson, John & Sandra Eaton, Brian & Ann Godden, Jon & Sharon Kinzel, Sharon Smith, Ernice & Marlene Halkesnig, Sharron & Harry Powers, Robert Clark, Rich & Marcia Greenwood, Pat & Kim Lisk, Peter Nielsen, Jeff & Rence Page, Doug White, Kathy Swanson, Diane Platt, Dennis & Sonja Rowland, Wayne Fincher, Lorene & Jeff Simmons, Janice & David Donaldson, Carol & Tim & T.J. Wolfe, Robert Rosen, Robin Pratt, Frank Nelson, Firmo Dayao, Ruth Nelson, Andrew McManns, John W. McDauit, JR., Jim Kleinbeck, Michael & Susan Conner, Diana Taylor, Kathy & Lew Zahradnlee

Welcome and Introductions:

Community Services Manager Duanna Richards opened the meeting with introductions of staff. Mayor Lewis facilitated the audience participation portion of the meeting and discussed the following topics:

- Police Officers - there are a total 114 officers currently on staff and six cars to cover the entire city during any one shift.
- Sidewalks – it was clarified that sidewalks are the responsibility of the residents and/or builder at the time infrastructure was built. Many years ago the Forest Villa neighborhood did not want sidewalks, since then the City Council has created a matching grant that can help put sidewalks if neighborhoods apply and get approved for the grant.
- 911 – residents were advised to call 911 for all emergencies and non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. The City shares ownership of the 911 system with other south end cities and the calls go into a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making these types of calls.

Traffic Issues:

Stop Signs, Traffic Lights and Cameras –

- Blind corner at 27th Street was reported.
- A 3-way stop was suggested for 19th and Hemlock Street.
- A suggestion was made to have cameras installed at the AM PM intersection. Mayor Lewis explained the Photo Safe camera system; cameras are placed in the areas that have the most reported accidents and light-running incidents. The cameras are used to increase safety.

- The residents suggested a light next to the Tot Lot on Fir Street would be beneficial.

Sidewalks, Speed bumps, Curbs and Parking –

- The size of speed bumps and traffic circles were reported as a concern; residents stated that some of the bumps are too high and/or too wide for intersections. Mayor Lewis reported Council's concerns were based around safety first, driving convenience second.
- The left hand turn signal duration at Auburn Way and Dogwood was reported to be too short.
- There are illegal turns being made into the AM PM store; it was suggested the length of the "C" curb be increased to prevent this from happening.
- Residents reported that Dogwood St. needs to be striped. Mayor Lewis talked about the benefits of striping bike lanes and center lanes to decrease the speed of traffic.

Speeding –

- Reports of speed limit too high on Hemlock Street; there is no safe way to turn left.
- There were reports of high-speed driving between 15th Street and M Street.
- Skyway Lane dead ends into an old Tribal-owned parking lot which is being used by kids who speed down the street on motorbikes.

Transportation Planner Tiffin Goodman briefly spoke to the community regarding the City's traffic calming program and explained the upcoming proposal process that will take place. Ms. Goodman invited everyone to approach the traffic table after the meeting to provide input.

Code Enforcement Issues:

- There were questions regarding cars parked in yards. Mayor Lewis asked people to report them to Code Enforcement for follow up; there were no specific addresses reported.

Police:

- Firework citations were discussed. The Community wanted to know how many citations were issued in the Forest Villa neighborhood; Police Chief Jim Kelly offered to get that information to the community. A neighbor indicated he was with the Police on the night of July 4th and reported the people lighting off the fireworks are their own neighbors.
- Residents inquired who responds to fires and is responsible for clean up on Tribal land after the 4th of July. Mayor Lewis reported the City cannot make the Tribe clean up afterwards, but Federal officials can. The Valley Regional Fire Authority responds to fires then charges the Tribe accordingly.

Graffiti:

- A comment was made that graffiti in and around the neighborhood has been being covered up quickly, the residents were happy.

Planning:

- Residents asked about appropriate zoning for group homes and if they need to have special approval to operate. There are strict State laws for group homes; they are allowed to be in neighborhoods without informing the City and/or neighbors.
- Houses owned by Muckleshoot Tribal Members must file with the Federal Government to have the home and land become part of the Muckleshoot Trust, it is not automatic.
- Questions arose about what the Tribe is building. Mayor Lewis stated the Tribe is putting efforts into building a K-12 school. They do not have to apply for permits from the City for anything they build.

- There were issues with drugs and alcohol being used on the path behind the school that exits out to Scenic Drive. Mayor Lewis will find out who owns this land and get that information out to the neighbors.

Parks:

- Neighbors reported finding needles and empty alcohol containers at the Tot Lot on Fir Street. Mayor Lewis asked residents to call this kind of activity in to 911 and if nothing is being done to call the Mayor himself.
- Shaughnessy Park is not part of the Muckleshoot land; the Mayor talked about Clean Sweep happening in the park on May 10, 2008. There are efforts to raise funds to get new playground equipment for the park now.
- There are issues of speeding, drug paraphernalia and dumping in the alleyway on 19th and 20th Street. Residents suggested putting up concrete bollards to prevent access to this area.

Neighborhood Point of Contact:

- Robert Cottrell announced at the meeting he has already started a block watch and encouraged people to join his contact list for future community involvement. If residents are interested in joining the neighborhood a block watch or would like to keep informed please contact Robert Cottrell at:

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